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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 003913

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, AND PM. OSD AND CENTCOM -- PLEASE
PASS TO OCPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/17/2013
TAGS: PREL MOPS TU IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ: GOT DESIRES TO SHIP OFFICE FURNITURE TO
IRAQI MFA UPON APPROVAL FROM OCPA

REF: ANKARA 3554

(U) Classified by Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Deutsch.
Reasons: 1.5 (B and D).

SUMMARY/ACTION REQUEST

¶11. (C) The Turkish MFA has responded positively to requests from the Iraqi MFA and the Iraqi Tribal Coalition to provide these organizations office supplies. The MFA is prepared to send these goods (via the Habur Gate) as soon as authorization from OCPA is received. The MFA requests that US authorities in Iraq take appropriate security measures to help ensure safe passage for two Turkish drivers/trucks that will transport the supplies. The Embassy would appreciate notification from OCPA once authorization for the shipment of the supplies is granted. End summary/action request.

TURKS RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUEST FROM IRAQI MFA

¶12. (C) The MFA sent the Embassy a diplomatic note late June 16 (see para 4 for text) notifying us that the MFA intended to send office furniture and other supplies to the Iraqi MFA and the Iraqi Tribal Coalition in Baghdad. MFA Iraq Department Head Kerim Uras told us that the two Iraqi organizations had asked that Turkey provide the supplies during the Turkish MFA delegation's mid-May visit to Iraq (reftel). Uras said the MFA had recommended that the two Iraqi organizations apply to the OCPA to obtain the necessary permission for the MFA to send the supplies to Iraq. Uras said he was uncertain whether the two Iraqi organizations had applied for permission, or whether OCPA had granted the permission. Uras said that, in the meantime, the MFA wanted to send the office supplies to Baghdad at the end of the week (June 19 or 20) in anticipation of eventual permission.

¶13. (C) Pol-Mil officer stressed to Uras the importance of coordinating all shipments into Iraq with OCPA and advised that the MFA hold off on sending the shipments across the Habur Gate until authorized by OCPA (MFA had wanted to store the supplies at the Turkish Embassy pending OCPA approval). Uras said the MFA recognized the importance of coordinating fully with the USG on all matters related to Iraq, and agreed to not send the supplies until authorization is granted.

TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE

¶14. (U) Begin text of diplomatic note number OAGY-II/165:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to inform the latter that the Ministry will dispatch office furniture and stationary goods to be used for the renovation and the refurbishment of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the office of the Iraqi Tribal Coalition, upon a request from the said organizations.

The Ministry has the honour to present a list of the office furniture and the stationary goods and the names of the drivers and the license plates of their vehicles. (Embassy note: the list provided by the MFA is in Turkish and therefore is not attached. We will provide a list in English

septel. End note.) The vehicles will enter Iraq from the Habur-Ibrahim Khalil Border Gate on the 19th or 20th of June, 2003.

The Ministry requests the esteemed Embassy to kindly inform the US forces in the region and in Baghdad to take appropriate security measures for the safety of the drivers and the vehicles that will travel through Iraq and enable their swift and safe transit to Baghdad.

The Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ankara, June 16, 2003
The names of the drivers: Ihsan Dagtan and Manaf Ozinekci

Plate numbers of the trucks: 21 ED 872 and 21 EA 340

End text.
PEARSON